

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 INT-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 OES-03 /086 W

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R 230415Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMCONSUL SYDNEY

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

SECSTATE WASHDC 0092

USDOC WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9827

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTIO, AS, IN

SUBJ: ALUMINA REFINERY - INDIA: REPLY TO KAISER ENGINEERS

INQUIRY

REF: SYDNEY 1451 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC SECTOR (CENTRE AND STATE) ALUMINA REFINERY IN KUTCH REGION OF GUJARAT HAS BEEN ON GOI DRAWING BOARD SINCE 1969. PROJECT ENVISIONS ESTIMATED ANNUAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF 200,000 TO 300,000 METRIC TONS OF ALUMINA, ENTIRE QUANTITY OF WHICH COULD BE EXPORTED ON BASIS OF LONG-TERM SUPPLY CONTRACT (IN RETURN FOR FINANCING) WITH ONE OF MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES THAT REPORTEDLY HAS PLANS TO SET UP ALUMINUM SMELTING FACILITIES. RECOGNITION OF URGENT NEED FOR INCREASED FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS THROUGH EXPORTS HAS COMPELLED GOI TO STEP UP NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO SUCH CONTRACT.

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ACCORDING TO KEY GOI OFFICIALS, NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOW IN AD-

VANCED STAGE AND FIRM DECISION SHOULD BE REACHED WITHIN ONE MONTH. WHILE OFFICIAL REFUSED TO DISCLOSE NEGOTIATING PARTNER, PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS ON PROJECT WHICH FAILED TO RESULT IN AN AGREEMENT INVOLVED IRAN.

2. ON QUESTION OF SCOPE FOR PARTICIPATION OF FOREIGN FIRMS IN PROPOSED VENTURE, GOI OFFICIAL DECLINED TO PROVIDE DEFINITIVE ANSWERS AT THIS TIME, BUT DID INDICATE THAT, SHOULD GOI DECIDE TO INVITE FOREIGN PARTICIPATION, IT WOULD BE ON BASIS OF THEIR ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW. "NEWNESS" OF THE TECHNOLOGY WILL BE MAJOR FACTOR IN SELECTION OF FOREIGN COLLABORATOR(S), GOI OFFICIAL ADDED.

3. OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR EXECUTION OF PROJECT IS V. PANCHAPAGESAN, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF MINES, MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES, ROOM #326, SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI-110001. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: SHOULD KAISER ENGINEERS WISH COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH PANCHAPAGESAN, WE WOULD APPRECIATE NOT BEING IDENTIFIED AS SOURCE OF ABOVE INFORMATION. ALSO, YOU SHOULD PASS ON TO ROHAN THAT THE GOI OFFICIALS PRIVATELY EXPRESSED THE SUSPICION THAT KAISER WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE FAILURE OF PREVIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. SAXBE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE09827
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750253-1094
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750729/aaaabahp.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SYDNEY 1451
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALUMINA REFINERY - INDIA: REPLY TO KAISER ENGINEERS INQUIRY
TAGS: BTIO, AS, IN
To: SYDNEY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006